New Carbondale flag created

By S. ROBERT POWELL

In May 1982, a Carbondale city flag was designated by S.Robert Powell and sewn by Ann Swindlehurst Powell. The design of this flag, shown here, is as follows: a white circle in the middle of a blue circle centered in a horizontal rectangle of white; at the center of the white circle are a crossed pickaxe and shovel (in black) above three chunks of burning anthracite coal (the coal is blue, the flames are red); the year "1851" is given (in black letters) on the white circle, one half of that date to the left of the central image, and the other half to the right of the central image; at the circumference of the blue circle are the following words (in white): "City of Carbondale Pennsylvania Incorporated."

This flag was presented to Mayor Fred J. Mancuso by S. Robert Powell, on behalf of the Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall, at the Dignitaries' Luncheon at 11 a.m. on August 28, 1982 in Carbondale Area High School. Later that day, the Carbondale city flag was carried in the Fourth Annual Pioneer Days parade by John V. Buberniak and Donald W. Powell, representing the Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall.

The design of this flag is derived from three sources. First, the original seal of the city of Carbondale -- a crossed pickaxe and shovel in the center of a circle, at the circumference of which are the following words: "Carbondale City Seal." This seal, which was discovered, in 1893, in the depts of the vaults in City Hall, was most probably designed in 1851 when the city of Carbondale was incorporated. This seal was made by the veteran Carbondale cabinet maker, J.F. Kinback, out of a block of lignum vitae, and was stamped upon all official documents of the city. A line engraving of this seal was published on page 6 of "The Carbondale Leager" of June 10, 1893.

The design of this flag is derived, secondly, from the official seal for Carbondale's 125th Anniversary and America's Bicentennial. Represented on the front of this circular seal, which was designed by Gary Lapera, are a crossed pickaxe and shovel, above three chunks of burning anthracite coal. At the circumference of this side of seal is the following test: "Carbondale - Pennsylvania - 1851 1976 - Home of Anthracite Coal - Birthplace of Modern Energy." In the center of the back of this seal is a representation of Carbondale's 1892-1894 City Hall, with the words "City Hall" given at the base of the front of the building. At the circumference of the circle are the following words: "America's Bicentennial 1776-1976 Carbondale -- 125 Years." The front and back of this medal are pictured on the inside front and inside back covers, respectively, of the Carbondale Commemorative Booklet that was published in 1976 (written in part and edited by Jerry Palko; layout by Ray Rinaldi and Jerry Palko; design and graphics by John Uram; printing by Cassaro-Uram Advertising and Printing).

The design of the Carbondale city flag is derived, thirdly, from a modified version of the front of the medal that was struck on the occasion of Carbondale's 125th Anniversary and America's Bicentennial. It is this modified design (a pickaxe and shovel crossed above three chunks of burning anthracite coal in the center of a circle, all superimposed on a second circle at the circumference of which are the following words: "City of Carbondale Pennsylvania incorporated 1851") that was adopted by Carbondale City Council, in 1976, as the official seal of the city of Carbondale.

In 1901, as in 1976, a Carbondale medal was struck. On the front of the 1901 medal is the following inscription: "1851 - Semicentennial - Of - Carbondale - The Anthracite City - Sept. 1-4, 1901." On the back of this 1901 medal is presented the seal of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.